CONFIDENTIAL.

D.O.No.F.50.

DEWAN OF MYSORE

BALLABROOIE,
HIGH GROUND,
BANGALORE.

23rd June 1922.

My dear Mr. Mirza,

I beg to invite attention of His Highness to my scheme for a London agency and would respectfully urge that His Highness may be pleased to sanction the scheme at least in part, so that proper arrangements may be made for obtaining stores, materials, supplies, etc., for the various departments of administration from Europe under the most economical basis. At present, we are practically at the mercy of the manufacturers as well as the Heads of Departments and I have explained the whole case carefully in my note on the subject in which a scheme for opening a Mysore House in London has been propounded. I admit that everything will depend on the honesty and ability of the officer selected for the place and I would therefore suggest in the alternative, an arrangement on a commission basis on the total turnover of business that is conducted through the House in London; but pending His Highness' decision in the matter of choosing a high officer as the Agent-General, I feel inclined to make a start in setting up a House with the aid of one of our officers such as Mr. P.G. D'Souza who, I am afraid is not going to make much of a success as Director of Industries and Commerce. The Finance Committee has also recommended that that whole-time appointment should cease, the function of the Director of Industries and Commerce being tacked on to another Head of Department. These proposals are under the consideration of the Council. In the meantime, having regard to our immediate requirements in several departments of the State and also the future commercial arrangements for the Sandal Oil Factories, in Europe, I feel inclined to recommend that two officers should be deputed - one from the General Service and another from the Technical Service, so that one may keep the other in check, for a period of one year. We shall have a superfluity of officers under the several retrenchment schemes and the pay and emoluments of these two officers will not add to the expenditure under establishments, on the other hand, I am convinced that under proper supervision and control, they can save the State several thousands of rupees very nearly a lakh or two. I have discussed the matter informally in Council and the Council are agreeable to the scheme being put forward again for adoption on

the lines suggested above. If two officers are thus selected as joint agents, the question of sending a superior high officer may be deferred, if necessary, and I can arrange with Sir William Meyer, High Commissioner in London, to exercise general supervision over these two men. For the technical post, there are only two men to think of, viz., Mr. Rhore and Mr. Rice, each having their own deficiencies for the post of Chief Engineer in the State. Rhore has got only 2½ years to run and he may be tried; and Rice himself is not very keen on staying if he does not get substantial promotion and wants to retire on proportionate pension. He may also be thought of in that connection and may be allowed to retire and tried in the post of technical joint agent for a period of one year. With D'Souza and Rice or D'Souza and Rhore, we should be self-sufficient and establish a self-contained organization if we had a man of the status of a Member of Council at the head of affairs. But having regard to our financial stringency, perhaps we may begin on a modest scale and I can assure His Highness that I am confident of substantial savings to the State if such an arrangement is instituted at an early date. Definite instructions will of course have to be given and a certain amount of friction between Heads of Departments and this organization will naturally take place as vested interests already existing will be interfered with. But we have to face that inconvenience and try to secure for the service of the various departments the very best we can get for the money that we can spare for the purpose.

Yours sincerely,

M. Visvesvaraya

23.6.22

Amin-ul-mulk
Mirza Ismail, B.A.,
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the Maharaja of Mysore.